AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

(IN FORMAT COMPLIANT WITH THE REVISED 37 CFR 1.121)

Please withdraw claims 9-13 and 15. Please add new claims 16-20.

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for delineating a frame, comprising the steps of:

(A) receiving said frame comprising (i) a length field storing a length value ~~incorporating a payload error detection length~~ for a combined length consisting of a payload field and a payload error detection field, (ii) a length error detection field storing a length error detection value for said length value, (iii) said payload field storing a payload data, and (iv) said payload error detection field storing a payload error detection data ~~value having~~ for said payload data ~~error detection length, wherein said payload error detection value and said payload data occupy separate fields of said frame~~;

(B) performing an error detection on said length value based upon said length error detection value; and

(C) retrieving said payload data and said payload error detection ~~value~~ data from said frame based upon said length value and in response to passing said error detection on said length value.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 1, wherein step ~~(A)~~ (B) comprises the sub-steps of:

buffering a plurality of received bytes in a buffer;

calculating an intermediate error detection value from a first predetermined group of said received bytes in said buffer;

comparing said intermediate error detection value with a received value defined by a second predetermined group of said received bytes in said buffer; and

marking a start of said ~~frame~~ payload field in response to said intermediate error detection value matching said received value.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 2, further comprising the ~~step~~ steps of:

advancing said buffer such that at least one of said received bytes moves from said first predetermined group into said second predetermined group; and

buffering at least one subsequent byte of said received bytes into said first predetermined group in response to said intermediate error detection value being different than said buffered value.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 2, further comprising the ~~step~~ steps of ~~reading~~ generating a length signal conveying said length value from said first predetermined group in response to said intermediate error detection value matching said received value.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim ~~1~~ 4, further comprising the step of separating said payload data ~~and~~ from said payload error detection ~~value~~ data based upon both said length value and a predetermined value.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of jumping a number of bytes equal to said length value from a start of said payload ~~data~~ field to reach a next frame.

7. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

determining a second length value based upon (i) a payload length of said payload data and (ii) a second payload error detection length of a second payload error detection value;

calculating a second length error detection value for said second length value; and

inserting (i) said second length value, (ii) said second length error detection value, (iii) said payload data, and (iv) said second payload error detection value into a second frame, wherein said payload data and said second payload error detection value occupy separate fields of said second frame.

8. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 1, wherein said steps (A) through (C) are stored in a storage medium as a computer program that is readable and executable by a computer to delineate said frame.

9. (WITHDRAWN) A method for creating a frame comprising the steps of:

(A) determining a length value based upon (i) a payload length of a payload data and (ii) a payload error detection length of a payload error detection value;

(B) calculating a length error detection value for said length value; and

(C) inserting (i) said length value, (ii) said length error detection value, (iii) said payload data and (iv) said payload error detection value into said frame, wherein said payload data and said payload error detection value occupy separate fields of said frame.

10. (WITHDRAWN) The method according to claim 9, further comprising the step of calculating said payload error detection value.

11. (WITHDRAWN) The method according to claim 10, further comprising the step of buffering said payload data.

12. (WITHDRAWN) The method according to claim 9, further comprising the step of assembling said frame as (i) a length field, (ii) a length error detection field, (iii) a packet field, and (iv) a packet error detection field.

13. (WITHDRAWN) A method according to claim 9, wherein said steps (A) through (D) are stored in a storage medium as a computer program that is readable and executable by a computer to create said frame.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a frame comprising (i) a length field storing a length value ~~incorporating a payload error detection length~~ for a combined length consisting of a payload field and a payload error detection field, (ii) a length error detection field storing a length error detection value for said length value, (iii) said payload field storing a payload data, and (iv) a payload error

detection field storing a payload error detection data ~~value having~~ for said payload data ~~error detection length, wherein said payload error detection value and said payload data occupy separate fields of said frame~~;

means for performing an error detection on said length value based upon said length error detection value; and

means for retrieving said payload data and said payload error detection ~~value~~ data from said frame based upon said length value in response to passing said error detection on said length value.

15. (WITHDRAWN) An apparatus comprising:

means for determining a length value based upon (i) a payload length of a payload data and (ii) a payload error detection length of a payload error detection value;

means for calculating a length error detection value for said length value; and

means for inserting (i) said length value, (ii) said length error detection value, (iii) said payload data and (iv) said payload error detection value into said frame, wherein said payload data and said payload error detection value occupy separate fields of said frame.

16. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said means for retrieving comprises:

a counter configured to generate a select signal based upon both said length value and a predetermined value; and

a demultiplexer configured to generate (i) a first signal carrying said payload data and (i) a second signal carrying said payload error detection data based on said select signal.

17. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said means for performing said error detection comprises a buffer circuit configured to buffer a plurality of received bytes transferring said frame.

18. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said means for performing said error detection further comprises a length circuit configured to generate an intermediate error detection value from a first predetermined group of said received bytes in said buffer circuit.

19. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said means for performing said error detection further comprises a compare circuit configured to generate a pass signal by comparing said intermediate error detection value to a received value defined by a second group of said received bytes in said buffer circuit.

20. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said length circuit is further configured to generate a length signal conveying said length value to said counter in response to said intermediate error detection value matching said received value.